

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with amendments that replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a blade for a cutting tool, in particular for a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or indeed an industrial tool, the blade ~~[[1]]~~ being made of steel or an alloy of stainless steels and having at least one cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~ extending over at least a portion of ~~[[its]]~~ a periphery thereof, the method ~~being characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body ~~(2, 102)~~ possessing at least one free edge ~~(F, 4)~~ provided in ~~[[the]]~~ a vicinity of ~~the location of the~~ or each at least one cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~;

b) projecting a make-up material ~~(M, M')~~ in the form of a powder ~~(5, 105)~~ onto the at least one free edge ~~(F, 4)~~, the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder ~~(5, 105)~~ to a laser beam ~~[[8]]~~ at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead ~~[[6]]~~ or strip ~~[[109]]~~

on at least a portion of ~~[[said]]~~ the at least one free edge ~~(4,~~
~~F); and,~~

d) performing a tempering and hardening operation on the
blade body fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material;
and

e) forming the cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~ in the bead ~~[(6)]~~ or
strip ~~[(109)]~~ of make-up material ~~(M, M')~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the at least one free edge is
formed by a flat ~~[(4)]~~ extending perpendicularly to a main
plane ~~[(P)]~~ of the blade body ~~[(2)]~~.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blade body ~~(2, 102)~~ presents
dimensions that are slightly smaller than those of the final
blade ~~[(1)]~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one cutting edge ~~(3,~~
~~103)~~ is made by grinding, machining, or abrading at least the

bead ~~[[6]]~~ or the strip ~~[[109]]~~ of make-up material ~~(M, M')~~.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blade body ~~[[2]]~~ is machined or ground before the step of forming the bead ~~[[6]]~~ of make-up material.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A blade for a cutting tool, in particular a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or an industrial machine, the blade having at least one cutting edge on at least a portion of ~~[[its]]~~ a periphery ~~thereof~~, and ~~being characterized in that it comprises~~ having a blade body ~~(2; 102)~~, the at least one cutting edge ~~(3; 103)~~ being supported on ~~[[one]]~~ an edge of ~~[[said]]~~ the blade body ~~(2; 102)~~ and made by a process comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body possessing at least one free edge provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto the at least one free edge,

the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of the at least one free edge,

d) performing a tempering and hardening operation on the blade body fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material; and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material.

11. (Currently Amended) A blade according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~ and the blade body ~~(2, 102)~~ are made of at least two different materials.

12. (Original) A cutting tool, in particular a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or ~~indeed~~ an industrial machine, ~~characterized in that it includes~~ having at least one blade ~~made according to claim 10 and made by a process comprising the following steps:~~

a) making a blade body possessing at least one free edge

provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto the at least one free edge,
the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of the at least one free edge,

d) performing a tempering and hardening operation on the blade body fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material;
and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material.